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HARVARD, MIT SUE TRUMP ADMIN OVER VISA ORDER

The two institutions have sued the Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement

CASE FILED IN BOSTON DISTRICT COURT

The move by MIT and Harvard is in response to the Trump administration's new guidelines barring foreign students from remaining in America if their universities switched to online-only classes in the Fall. According to a report in The Harvard Crimson, the two preeminent educational institutions filed a lawsuit in District Court in Boston Wednesday morning

LAWSUIT SEEKS RESTRAINING ORDER

- The lawsuit seeks a temporary restraining order and preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to bar the two federal agencies from forcing international students to leave the US
- "We owe it to them (students) to stand up and to fight and we will," said Harvard University President Lawrence Bacow

$41 bn

INT'L STUDENTS' CONTRIBUTION TO U.S. ECONOMY IN 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

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Hospitals battle staff shortage as Covid spikes

Despite offers of risk allowance, incentives, health staff reluctant to take up Covid duties

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

WITH the increasing number of coronavirus cases in the city, many private and government hospitals, which are hamstrung by a shortage of staff, have begun recruiting doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians and other staff. But shockingly, the prospective recruits seem averse to taking up Covid duties despite hospitals offering risk allowances and other incentives.

According to estimates by the Karnataka Medical Council, hospitals across the state are facing a 40-50 per cent shortage of doctors, nurses and technical staff. Sources in the state Covid technical committee said there is an acute shortage of health staff, specially for Covid care centres and to triage persons going in for home isolation.

At the government-run K C General Hospital, about seven staffers including nurses, doctors and a data operator, had tested positive for Covid-19, leading to a panic, and most of the Group-D staff and many nurses are on leave. Though the hospital is recruiting staff on a six-month contract, there are hardly any takers.

"Nobody wants to work in this scenario. With even health workers testing positive, the staffers are really scared. Between July 4 and 10, we are conducting walk-in interviews and so far, we have only got two specialists, four staff nurses and five Group-D staff who have come forward. We need more doctors, nurses and Group-D staff. The existing staff go into quarantine after Covid duty and we need extra staff to replace them," said a senior doctor who did not want to be named.

Dr Jagadish Hiremath, CEO of Ace Suhas Hospital in Jigani, said, "We had 60 staffers working with us in early March on Covid duty. Now, we have just 28 of them. With such lean staff, how can we check on Covid patients? We are recruiting and are even okay with reasonably trained staff who we can further train, but they want to join for non-Covid services. We are even offering them 100 per cent risk allowance apart from salary, but they are not agreeing for Covid duties."

CONTINUED ON: P15

Staff at the Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital screen a woman before allowing her to proceed to the OPD section, in Bengaluru on Wednesday | VINOD KUMAR T

KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

2,062 TEST POSITIVE ON WEDNESDAY

This is the highest number of cases in one day

TOTAL CASES 28,877

470 Total Deaths

11,876 Total Recoveries

• FULL COVERAGE P4

K'taka slipping on recovery rate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

As cases soar, Karnataka dials RMPs to fight virus

In a bid to fight the rapid spike in Covid cases, the government has sought the services of medical professionals registered with the Karnataka Medical Council. P4

A gradually declining Covid-19 recovery rate and an increasing positivity rate in Karnataka could be indicators of how the State Government is up against a rather tough fight on managing the dreaded disease. Karnataka, which on Wednesday recorded its highest single-day spike in cases at 2,062, has spiralled up to the seventh spot among states with the highest number of cases. Also, its recovery rate is the worst among the top states which have higher number of positive cases.

With a total of 28,877 Covid-19 positive cases so far, Karnataka has a recovery rate of just 41.12 percent, while the dubious topper, Maharashtra, with 2,23,724 cases, has a far better recovery rate of 54.60 per cent. The all-India recovery rate is at 61.64 per cent.

The state has been showing a high growth rate in cases, especially since June 27, ranging from 10.62 per cent on June 28, when 1,267 cases were added in a single day, to 5.91 per cent on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the growth rate in Covid-19 cases in the state was 7.68 per cent with the addition of 2,062 cases.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Govt-Congress war heats up, probe against RGF, two other NGOs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE face-off between the Congress first family and the ruling BJP deepened on Wednesday with the Union Home Ministry constituting an inter-ministerial panel to probe funding violations by NGOs controlled by the former — Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF), Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT) and Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

The probe comes in the backdrop of complaints by the BJP that money from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund was diverted to RGF.

"MHA sets up inter-ministerial committee to coordinate investigations into violation of various legal provisions of PMLA, Income Tax Act, FCRA etc by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust & Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. Spl. Dir of ED will head the committee," a Home Ministry spokesperson tweeted. The CBI will also be part of the probe panel, sources said.

Set up in 1991, RGF's stated purpose is to promote education while RGCT, a not-for-profit organisation set up in 2002, seeks to address the development needs of the underprivileged. Among the trustees of RGF are former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and P Chidambaram. Congress president Sonia Gandhi chairs both RGF and RGCT. Rahul is on the board of both the Trusts. On paper, K M Pareeth, a local leader and businessman in Kerala, is president of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, but Sonia reportedly oversees its work.

Predictably, the Congress reacted strongly to the probe and accused the government of practising politics of vengeance. It, however, said the Trusts have ample documentation to establish their source of funding.

"We are here as law-abiding persons to answer. Each opposition segment, individual and institution is being harassed," Congress spokesperson and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi said.

However, BJP general secretary P Muralidhar Rao asserted there was no political motive behind the probe. "Transactions of the RGF are in public domain. This issue has various dimensions. It is related to FCRA violations, it is related to donation acceptance, it is related to IT audit," claimed Rao.

After uproar, CBSE says syllabus snip only for 1 yr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

HOURS after a huge uproar over the choice of topics slashed for Classes 9-12 to prune the syllabus by 30% in view of the pandemic, the Central Board of Secondary Education on Wednesday sought to allay all misgivings, saying it is a "one-time measure" for a year to reduce exam stress.

In the process of rationalising about 190 subjects for Classes 9-12, the Board slashed various important chapters like secularism, democratic rights, gender, religion and caste and food security, creating a major controversy.

But the Board pointed out that the topics being mentioned "as dropped are either being covered by the rationalised syllabus or in the Alternative Academic Calendar of NCERT". "Each of the topics that have been wrongly mentioned in the media as deleted have been covered under Alternative Academic Calendar of NCERT which is already in force for all the affiliated schools of the Board," its statement read.

The omitted topics in Class 9 Political Science syllabus includes democratic rights and structure of the Indian Constitution. From the Economics

syllabus, the chapter on Food Security in India is dropped.

For Class 10, from the History syllabus, lessons on 'Everyday Life, Culture and Politics' and 'Print Culture and the Modern World' are out. In Geography, chapters on Forest and Wildlife, Water Resources and Mineral and Energy Resources have been partially cut. Only maps will be part of exams. As for Class 11 students, they need not study chapters on federalism, citizenship, nationalism, secularism and growth of local governments in India.

Many prominent people, including West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, shared their anguish. "Shocked to know that the Central Govt has dropped topics like Citizenship, Federalism, Secularism & Partition in the name of reducing CBSE course during #COVIDCrisis. We strongly object to this & appeal @HRD-Ministry, GoI to ensure these vital lessons aren't curtailed at any cost," she tweeted.

EXPRESS READ

BJP leader, kin shot dead in J&K

Srinagar: Wasim Ahmed Bari, BJP district president, his father and brother were shot dead by terrorists in the Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday night, DGP Dilbagh Singh said. The incident took place outside Bari's shop near police station Bandipora at 9 pm, the DGP added.

HIGH COURT STAYS BAN ON ONLINE CLASSES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Wednesday stayed the State Government's orders imposing a complete prohibition on online classes for children starting from LKG to Class 5 and restrictions for students of Classes 6 to 10. This comes a day after an expert committee gave its recommendations to the government on conducting online classes.

Observing that both the orders have no support of documents and that the state had passed the orders without any rational basis, a division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Nataraj Rangaswamy passed the interim order after hearing a batch of petitions filed by parents and CBSE/ICSE-affiliated schools.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Pullback total at two locations, one still on

MAYANK SINGH AND PUSHKAR BANAKAR @New Delhi

DISENGAGEMENT of troops along the LAC is complete at two locations while the process is still on at another one, sources said on Wednesday even as China chose to ramp up tensions through its mouthpiece *The Global Times*, warning India against misjudging the situation like it did in 1962.

"The disengagement process is complete at Patrolling Point (PP) 14 at Galwan Valley and PP 15 with the troops of both India and China receding to the agreed distance away from the standoff position held till Monday," sources said, adding the retreat from Patrolling Point 17A (Gogra) in Hot Spring Sector is about to culminate.

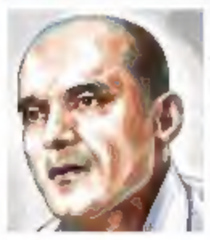
Talking about Finger 4 along the Northern Flank of Pangong Tso, sources termed the backward movement from the Chinese side as intangible as only a few vehicles have gone back. There has been no agreement on Depsang. "The process is to take place in phases and this is going to take time," sources said.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday accused China of taking "incredibly aggressive action" aginst India along the LAC.

The Global Times warned India of misjudging the situation like it did in 1962. In an article on Wednesday, it said, "We hope to see India properly handle its domestic nationalistic sentiments and overcome its strategic adventure."

The article went on to say that New Delhi's 'strategic aggressiveness' will ultimately undermine its long-term development and will lead to India paying a heavy price. "An adventurous strategy will be detrimental to India's national development goals," the article stated.

CONTINUED ON: P8



INDIA SLAMS PAK ON KULBHUSHAN PETITION

India on Wednesday said Pakistan's claim of former Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav refusing to file a review petition against his sentence is the continuation of a "farce" | P8

Social Welfare Department

Services of Social Welfare Department now through SAKALA

Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

General Public can now avail the below mentioned services through SAKALA.
Intending Beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Caste can avail the services by submitting applications through Seva Sindhu / Social welfare Department websites.

ಸಕಾಲ
Sakala

- Incentive for Inter Caste Married Couple.
- Compensation to Atrocity Victims
- Pre-Examination Coaching for U.P. S.C./K.P. S.C / Other Group A & B/ R.R.B./Banking/Group C/ S.S.C and other Competitive Examination.
- "Prabhuddha" Overseas Scholarship
- Prize Money to Meritorious Students.
- Pre-Metric Scholarship.
- Post-Metric Scholarship.
- Pre-Metric Hostel Admission
- Post-Metric Hostel Admission

Sri Govind M. Karjol,
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister & Minister for Social Welfare and Public Works,
Distributing Incentives to Inter Caste Married Couples.

Officers to be contacted:

Chief Administrative Officer, Pre-examination Training Centre and Joint/Deputy Directors of the respective Districts Social Welfare Department and Assistant Director (Grade-1 & 2), Social Welfare Department.
website: http://sakala.kar.nic.in and http://sw.kar.nic.in

As is enshrined in our constitution, "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

Dr. Ravi Kumar Surpur, IAS
Commissioner
Social Welfare Department

G. Kumar Naik, IAS
Principal Secretary to Govt.
Social Welfare Department